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FLOOR DEBATE

March 17, 2003 LB 209

view, to the integrity of continuing the ALR system, not the least of which and perhaps the most important of which is figuring out a way to handle these matters without having a barrage of claims submitted to this Legislature every year, every couple of years, to pay these what I think are, in some cases, outlandish fees for the work that's done. So we've got in here again a way to handle the appeals that are filed through the Attorney General's Office and not with General Fund money but with money out of the Highway Safety Program. We do have the ability to have these hearings by video conference or telephone which will cut down the costs a great deal. The bill does still eliminate the...what we call the judicial bypass link that links the ALR to the criminal process. And I know, from talking to Senator Chambers, we're going to have a discussion about that on Select File, but to me that is a terribly important part of the bill. This does provide for recodifying this ALR procedure into the rules of the road section or the operator's licensing section, I should say, from the rules of the road, which is consistent with it being a civil administrative proceeding. So ALR, just to remind us all, that if we would at some point decide to do away with ALR or it becomes so effective that it was determined not to be useful, we would lose about I think a half a million dollars in highway funds that are used by grants by the Office of Highway Safety. Again, studies have shown that the swift loss of a license is the most effective deterrent to drunk driving. And this is still a big problem in our society. We worry about being too tough on these things, but why is it in Europe where you stand to lose your license for life if you get caught drunk driving, they have a much lower incidence of accidents related to drinking and a much lower incidence of arrests due to drunk driving. And so I mean swift and effective action is important to this whole concern. So with that, I ask that you advance LB 209 and I thank you for the debate.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. You've heard the closing on advancement of LB 209. The question before the body is, shall LB 209 advance to E & R Initial? All in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on advancement of LB 209. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.